

The Dead Horse DISPATCH

January 2011

READY OR NOT HERE IT COMES
HAPPY NEW YEAR



A newsletter by and for the volunteers of Dead Horse Ranch State Park

DHRSP Christmas Party, December 16, Randall's Restaurant



Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus (actually Red Tail volunteers Gary and Sharon Munson), brought toys for Eric's children, Nathan and Kayla.



The room was beautifully lit by Christmas lights and candles. At center is Loma Jenkins, wife of volunteer Bud Jenkins. To the left, Carl Hartman raises his candle high, as does Joan Gray (with back to camera).



Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus have appeared at a variety of locations this December, in an effort to provide a bit of Christmas for kids and adults who might not have had a happy holiday. They will also deliver food baskets at Christmas time, attired in their wonderful outfits.



Cabin hosts Janet and Vern Sisson, at left in photo, share some pre-dinner camaraderie with Patricia and Art Enockson. Janet and Vern have completely changed the look of the drive to the cabins by eliminating tons of brush, branches and weeds.



Maxine Bean (mother of the DHRSP volunteer program) was honored at the Christmas dinner party. She received a Lifetime Pass to the parks, and Eric talked about her many contributions over the years.



To honor Maxine and all the volunteers, Eric had the lights turned off and lit a candle for Maxine.

Then Maxine lit her candle and shared her light with each of the volunteers and rangers attending the party. Slowly the room filled with light, representing how so much can be done by many when they join together, and how so much can happen in the world if just one person will begin the process.



(left) Mrs. Santa Claus went in for a hug from little Nathan Buzonas.



(right) Carl Hartman receives his award from Eric.



Patricia and Art Enockson not only received mugs for their volunteer service, but Ranger Linda Hauk prepared crowns for them too, naming them queen and king of tumbleweeds.

DHRSP Christmas Party, December 16, Randall's Restaurant



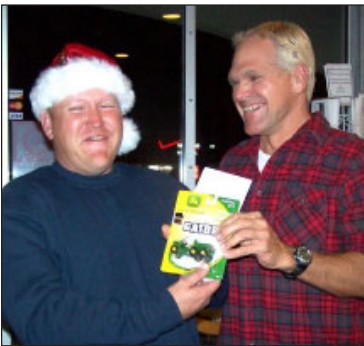
Jake Pratt has his very own Santa Hat, with his name in glitter. The hat was presented by Eric and Randy, and embossed by Ranger Linda Hauk.



Raven Loop volunteers Toni and Bob Mann begin working with Judy and Gale Schmidt on puzzles provided by Joan Gray. Joan also provided three prizes for those who finished the puzzles first, so the room became very quiet except for the expected table talk.



Left and right, Loma and Bud Jenkins (Cottonwood volunteers) share some humor as they try to solve the puzzles. Beside them, Bob and Mary Lusk attempt to come up with the right answers.



Jake Pratt, Cottonwood volunteer, received a pin for more than 1,000 hours of service. But more importantly, he received his very own 6-wheel Gator from Ranger Randy Victory. The two often work together on projects in the park, and Jake loves to drive the Gator.



(left) Volunteers Jim Harris and Maryan Pharo joined forces to finish a puzzle. They were the first to finish and claim a prize: a pair of movie tickets.



Norm Hephner received his vest and 4,000 hour pin this year as Ranger Linda checks the list. Nicole Armstrong (looking on) made a special trip from Phoenix this year to honor the volunteers.

Nicole Armstrong (Volunteer Coordinator for AZ State Parks) thanked and applauded the many hours the volunteers (the volunteers greatly outnumber the people who work for the State Park system).



"You outnumber us!"



Nancy and Peter Hardy (volunteers who do their magic on trails throughout the park each winter) received their mugs from Rangers Eric and Linda. All the ladies also received a small bouquet of flowers for the holiday event.



Rose and Frank Larramore (not currently volunteering at the park) are staying over by Camp Verde and were able to add their laughter and fun to the event. Rangers Eric and Linda provided them with their 3,000 hour pins.



Volunteers Keven Ward and Pat Rhoads shared a laugh after receiving their jackets and 3,000 hour pins from Ranger Eric Buzonas.

Those attending the Christmas party donated \$100 to the Verde Valley Children's Fund. Local business women have a silent auction at Randall's Restaurant to raise funds for clothing for needy children. The donation will be added to that fund.



Keith and Judi Mangels (not winter volunteering) were nearby and were able to attend the Christmas party. Judi got caught up with Ranger Randy, while Keith gave Mrs. Claus a wish list for Christmas.



Rangers Eric and Linda appear a bit puzzled after calling Lagoon volunteer and golf-cart magician, Bill LaFleur, to the front. Bill received his 5,000 hour pin and will also receive a plate with a photo of his choice.



Volunteers in Action!

Harold Flavell



If the wooden picnic tables at DHRSP are looking brand new, it is thanks to the work of Harold Flavell, a Cottonwood resident who volunteers many hours at Dead Horse. Last spring, Harold redid five tables, and this fall he is working on another five. And it is no easy task! Harold managed to get new wood for the spring tables (donated by Home Depot) and also worked out matching funds with the park for this fall's project. First Harold cuts the tables apart so that he can get tools to the rusted bolts and remove them from the frame. The frames are scraped and sanded before he begins putting the new lumber on the frames. After sanding, everything is primed and painted. The result? Ten park tables that look brand new to impress our visitors and prevent splinters. When asked how long it might take to complete these five, Harold said, "Well, I just keep on going 'til they are done." Thanks for all your hard work, Harold.

submitted by Nan Hephner

Art and Patricia Enockson



We are all amazed at the mountains of tumbleweeds in Lower Day Use Area, collected by volunteers Art and Patricia Enockson. People walking the trail along the river have expressed their appreciation for all that hard work. Eventually the piles will be flattened with the tractor and burned. Art and Patricia have been named the official Tumbleweed King and Queen at DHRSP.

Photos by Nan

Liz Rex

Hi Eric, Attached is a newsletter that just came out and it explains a bit about what I'm doing here in Kuwait. You'll see it under Camp Arifjan, Kuwait (TFCF). I am one of the "remissioned" PSD persons. Talk to you later, say hi to everyone for me.

Liz Rex

The Theater Field Confinement Facility (TFCF) located at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait is the only facility of its kind in the CENTCOM AOR. Though it falls under the Army Corrections Command (ACC), it is run by Navy personnel. The latest

detachment, Detachment India, is 42 cadre-strong and is a mix of active duty and reserve personnel from over 27 commands and 20 states, as well as eight extenders and four "remissioned" PSD personnel. Det India reported in mid-August for their nine-month tour, ready to perform and meet the challenges of confinement and escort operations under the leadership of the Command Team, Officer-in-Charge, Cmdr. Larry Watkins and Senior Enlisted Leader, Command Master Chief (AW) Peter Steinberg.



Pat Rhoads and Keven Ward

Pat is working in the cattails along the ditch, where Keven and Pat are building a trail behind Raven Loop. It is an old trail that had disappeared and they are bringing it back.

photo by Keven Ward

Pete and Nancy Hardy



Hi there Eric, Greetings to Justin, Randy, Tony and congratulations to George. We hope you are all well and looking forward to the holidays. Messing with boats has kept us up here in Washington a few weeks longer than usual but we expect to be on the road, headed for Arizona, by the end of the week. We are wondering if you can still use our services for a few weeks, tending to the park trails? As you know, we don't expect an assigned site. We expect to depart, headed for California, by Christmas. I've attached a few photos. The first is of Nancy driving the Western Explorer, the go-fast whale watch boat she drives. The second is taken over Fort Flagler (a Washington State Park, which has recently "officially" accepted paragliding as an on-park activity). We were flying with several friends, to celebrate the new flying site.

Lynn Holland

Lynn Holland may be heading to work at Jerome State Historic Park soon. She is getting her physical this week and if it goes well she will be a Seasonal Ranger at JSHP. Good luck Lynn! **Lynn Holland is NOW officially a Seasonal Ranger at Jerome State Historic Park!!! Hooray!!!**

Submitted by Linda Hauk

Norm Hephner and Jim Harris

Norm and Jim have been repainting stripes all over the park, leaving them coated in either yellow or white paint (the guys, not the roads). They have both applied for roller blades thinking they could wear them and their wives could just pull them along where the stripe should go. No comment from the wives.

submitted by Nan Hephner

Jack Pratt



Jake Pratt in this year's Cottonwood Christmas Parade!

photo by Randy Victory

Vern and Janet Sisson

Vern and Janet (cabin hosts) have removed tons of tumbleweeds, branches and weeds from along the cabin road. This has created a beautiful green, grassy area through the mesquites, with a great deal of character across the ditch from the trail. Major burn piles exist throughout the park, which hopefully will be burned along with the cattails at the lagoons, this month.

submitted by Nan Hephner

Laurie Blitsch

Hi Carolyn, Just a quickie for the next newsletter. Joe and I are getting ready to leave on our Mexican Riviera Cruise, Dec. 5th, for seven nights, eight days. Probably won't venture far from the ship with all the issues going on in Mexico, but I love to just take in some "rays" on the Lido Deck. It will be a welcome change to have warm weather. Thanksgiving Day was 16 degrees at my home in the mountains, with over a foot of that wicked white stuff. Now I remember why I traveled to AZ for the winters. Hope you all had as enjoyable of a Thanksgiving as we did. Fondly, Laurie Blitsch

Bill and Su Cain

Bill has quit managing the mobile home park, so we have more freedom. His heart continues in A-fib, but he lives with it very well. He exercises with me at the pool. Of course, with our daughter back to work, he and the other grandfather do a lot of grandchild toting (middle school and high school). The G'pas are crucial for cross-country, voice lessons, braces, youth group, and even running Karin to PT with me after her second knee replacement. Bill and Scooter walk regularly, which is important for each of them. Scooter is aging. He has a small hole in his heart and takes a halved pill twice daily. He doesn't like rain much, but does love green lawns. He enjoys his huge and loving pack, which includes: humans, dogs, cats and even a Bearded Lizard (from AR, WA, OR, ID, NM, MT, CO, MO and SC). I was always good at multiple test questions and have now expanded my skills to multiple answers. Thank you for the news about George and the family. Lov, SuC

Wes and Carolyn Scott

First of all we wish you all a Merry Christmas. We are at Roosevelt Lake in Arizona. We were offered a year round camp host job here so we have decided to stay. We are half way between my brother and sister located in other parts of Arizona as well as close to the Grandchildren and my son in Phoenix. My brother is on kidney dialysis due to diabetes caused by agent orange in Vietnam. We like being close to him and being able to spend time with him. We are in the desert so yes it gets VERY hot during the summer. But we survived our first summer and sure we will survive the summer of 2011. As some of you know my grandmother turned 100 years old last February and is not doing too well right now. Keep her in your prayers that if it is her time... may she go in her sleep and peacefully. As you may know we have added to our family, a female mini Aussie... Quigley has a girlfriend and playmate. I was granted disability this year, so retired I am. Wes and I are in good health, I just can't do ANY stress. We are happy and our life is peaceful. We wish you all well in your travels and happy trails. Please drop us a line and let us know how all of you are doing.

And Then It Is Winter

You know, time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my mate. And yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all... And I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams... But, here it is... the winter of my life and it catches me by surprise... How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go?

I remember well... seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like... But, here it is... my friends are retired and getting gray... they move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me... but, I see the great change... Not like the ones that I remember, who were young and vibrant... but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore... it's mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will... I just fall asleep

where I sit! And so, now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done, but never did!! But, at least I know, that though the winter has come, and I'm not sure how long it will last... this I know, that when it's over... its over... Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done... things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime...

So, if you're not in your winter yet... let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!! Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not! You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life... so, live for good today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember... and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!! "Life is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one."

LIVE IT WELL!! ENJOY TODAY!! DO SOMETHING FUN!! BE HAPPY!! BE THANKFUL!!

*Sent to Emerson & Karen Trushel, from Wayne & Helen Kemp
To be shared by all their friends at DHRSP*

Just the other day...
A nasty little squirrel
Put Randy Victory's life
Into a state of peril!!

The squirrel crossed!
And Randy lost
Control of his bike grip...
His hand let go! His focus lost!
He did a MIGHTY flip!

Randy sailed into the air
Like a leap onto home plate!
The final inning? The crowd went wild?
(No that's not it... Just wait...)

He hit the ground with an enormous
THUD!
Into a heap of stones and mud!!
Randy SMACKED into the dirt!
And then he yelled,
"Oh CRAP!! I'm hurt!"

Randy lay awake in pain!
As his friends looked on in great disdain!

Randy screamed, "Don't leave me here!
To DIE ALONE!!!
Does someone have a stinking phone??
MY GOD!! This SUCKS!!
This isn't fun!!
Someone PLEASE!! Call 911!!!"

Friend Aaron reached behind his back
And pulled a cell phone from his pack
He punched in numbers (3 in all)
And placed a frantic rescue call!

"My friend is hurt! Hurt INDEED!!
He crashed his bike
At BREAK-NECK speed!
He landed in an awkward position!
We're sure he needs to see a physician!"

Then dispatch said,
"Don't move his head!"
One wrong move, he could be dead!
Through GPS they tracked his call,
And sent out medics! (Six in all!)

Randy's friends all gathered round
While Randy writhed on the ground!
Hold on Randy! Franny said.
As she stabilized his neck and head!

They're sending help!
You must be strong!
Keep your cool!
It won't be long!

The medics soon arrived
Through a grove of aspen trees
Sporting blue & white T-shirts
With matching dungarees!

He's over here!!
One medic said
That guy right there!
With the big forehead!

Yes that's him! Yes! He's the one!
Look at his eyebrows!
They must weigh a ton!

A Dashing Nasty Squirrel



They braced him up
Against a tree
With broken ribs
And bloodstained knees....

The supervising paramedic,
In charge of this strange scene
Injected Randy's arm
With a dose of pure morphine

The drug then pulsed
Throughout his veins
And took away
His aches and pains

Randy saw a bright white light
And thought the end
Was now in sight.

What's happened to me?
Is my life DONE?
My final day? My setting sun?

Randy sobbed! He moaned!
He cried!
"Could this be it... My final ride?
Should I start peddling...
For the other side?"

With Randy propped
Against the tree,
He was questioned by an E.M.T

Randy mumbled,
"Well I'm not sure,"
Just what went wrong...
I was just leisurely riding
My mountain bike along...

When all at once I hit a bump
And landed on my head and rump!
Your head? My gosh!
What do you mean?
Tell me further Frankenstein...

Well, after that I can't concur...
The rest was just a great big blur!
I flew off of my handlebars
I must have seen a thousand stars!

And as the morphine took effect
They placed a collar round his neck
Sure to keep his spine in check

He was loaded into a van
And driven down the road,
To the 2nd part of this ghastly tale
The final episode...

Sirens roared!
There were flashing lights
As Randy lay helpless
In his biker tights.

His mind rushed, he wondered so
About this strange ordeal,
Am I just dreaming all this up?
Or is this shit for real?

Later on the ambulance slowed,
Turned left and did enter
Flagstaff Regional Medical Center!

The medics rushed him in
To this important doctor guy
Who immediately prescribed
A cat-scan & M.R.I.

"Good luck Randy!"
The medics said,
"We'll never forget
Your large forehead!!"

They said good-bye, off they went
Randy looked *quite hesitant*...

A nurse came in a short time later
And placed him in an incubator...
His life then flashed before his eyes
Amidst a wave of groans and sighs

Lights flashed,
Buttons were pressed
As he sobbed and moaned
In the tube (undressed!)

Randy peeked up at the screen
"That bleep right there,
What does it mean?"

The nurse replied,
"Why, that's your spleen!"

X-rays flashed in shades of gray
As his bones appeared on display.
The cameras scanned
His heart and brain
As Randy lay awake in pain!

Further down the tube he went...
Like a stuffed sock in a dryer vent!
Back and forth the cameras flew
Looked at from, all points of view!

Randy yelled!
He screamed! He cursed!
His mind was racing
He thought the worst...

Until he heard these words,
From a passing nurse:
"Listen son, it could be worse!
They could have brought you
In a hearse!"

He tried to keep a calm composure
Inside the tunnel-like enclosure
Randy focused on his breath
And pondered both his life and death.

The nurse said softly,
"Relax your mind.
In time you'll find
You'll leave this day
Far, far behind!!

The doctor entered
Clipboard -White smock
He looked at Randy, and said:
"Let's talk..."

Listen carefully Randy, to what I say
The M.R.I results came in
You broke your C-6 vertebrae!!

Fret not my friend!
In time you'll mend
Just lay low on the action!
In time you'll heal, regain appeal
And soon be out of traction.

Please look upon this day of fate
And what it almost did.
Just remember this
You're fifty now!
You're no longer a kid!!

Life is short remember that
Rejoice in everyway!
Thank God you got a second chance,
To ride another day!



Written by Eric Buzonas, DHRSP



Nan's Notes:

Report from Editor
Nan at DHRSP!

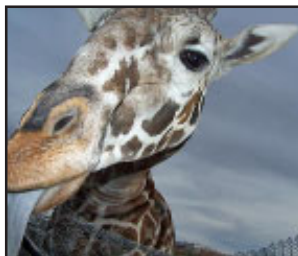
DHRSP Volunteers get "Out of Africa"

Some of the 20 volunteers who accepted **Out of Africa's** invitation to visit disembark from their Safari bus. From the back, that's Janet and Vern Sisson (standing), and in the gray sweatshirt is Jake Pratt, leaning over Carl Hartman. Keven Ward and Patrick Rhoads share a comment, while Margo and Dan Albright get ready to step down.



African fighters on left... I ask, is a cookie thrown from the Safari bus worth fighting over? Apparently so!

Giraffe on right... If you are close enough to count the nose hairs in a giraffe's face, might you just be too close? This friendly fellow would actually use his long black tongue to slurp a cookie from between a visitor's lips.



Out of Africa, located along Highway 260 near Cottonwood, was unable to attend a volunteer meeting to talk about the park, so they offered an invitation to all Dead Horse volunteers to come to the attraction for a onetime visit. Twenty volunteers accepted and visited the park in early December. Everyone had a great time watching the tigers splash in their pool, seeing the wildlife at feeding time, and marveling at the beauty of the lion with the black mane, and the faces of the tigers with their different stripes. There were snakes, tortoises, birds, grizzlies, wolves, zebras, lemurs and a whole lot more. On the safari tour, the volunteers were able to feed carrots to the camel and giraffes, but the sharp teeth of the zebras and the razor beak of the ostrich made feeding them impossible. The volunteers extend their thanks to **Out of Africa** for this opportunity. Armed with a whole bunch of information on the park, the volunteers can now answer easily when asked by visitors, "What is there to do around here?"

Lioness on right... (Bob Akey took this one) Most of the lions were sound asleep during our afternoon visit, but this lioness seemed to think she ought to keep an eye on the Dead Horse volunteers.



Les and Elizabeth Bovee in Alaska

Les Bovee, (DHRSP former manager) shows how he keeps warm in dark Alaska when the nights are -8 and the days reach a high of 6. His Yupik friends told him it would be cold in February!



"Kanakanak Beach has changed with the winter weather. Ice is flowing down the Nushagak River and the tides are depositing it on the beach. It's obvious that our walks there are about over. It'll be interesting to see the changes as the tide cycles continue," Les writes. He and Elizabeth (above in red), often walked along the beach, but the bears found the remains of an animal to chew on, so Les and Liz decided they might walk elsewhere for awhile.



Volunteer News

Coming & Goings

- * Susan & Bruce Williamson, Jan 1, Raven Loop
- * John & Wanda Ward, Jan 19, Coopers Hawk
- * Dan & Margo Albright, leaving Jan 18

Dates to Remember

December

- 25 - CHRISTMAS Peace on Earth!
- 31 - NEW YEARS EVE! Party!!! Party!!!

January

- 1 - NEW YEARS DAY!
- 7 - Volunteer Meeting, 10 am, VRG studio
- 21 - Volunteer Meeting, 10 am, VRG studio

January MileStones

- 1-Bob Ross
- 4-Justin Swiger
- 5-Jim Aker
- 8-Roger McCartney
- 12-Gary & Sharon Munson (2001)
- 14-Nan & Norm Hephner (1983)
- 19-Ken & Gigi House
- 20-Frank & Rose Larramore (1974)
- 23-Linda Hawk
- 24-George Gilbert
- 25-Barb & Dave Penny (1964)
- 26-Carol Barringer
- 28-Bernie Munson
- 30-Kathy Appling

Hi, Eric, we trust all is well at Dead Horse. We read the newsletter and once again salute you on a fabulous job managing the volunteers. AWESOME!

Happy Holidays and Many Cheers,
John Parsons